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SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE ✓

WYMAN GENEALOGY

AND

Wyman Families in Herts County,

ENGLAND.

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By HORACE WYMAN.

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WORCESTER:  
PUBLISHED BY F. S. BLANCHARD & CO.  
1897.





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ST. MARY'S,  
WEST MILL.

“Where'er we tread 'tis haunted, holy ground ;  
No earth of thine is lost in vulgar mould,  
But one vast realm of wonder spreads around.  
And all the Muse's tales seem truly told,  
Till the sense aches with gazing to behold  
The scenes our earliest dreams have dwelt upon.”



## PREFACE.

This little volume was written for the purpose of preserving in a suitable form such information regarding the name of Wyman as has come to the author's knowledge from historical records and from visits made in West Mill and Great and Little Hormead in the years 1889-1894 and 1896, and also incidentally to preserve in a permanent form some pleasant memories of those visits. All of the views were photographed by the author, except the one of the Francis Wyman place in Burlington, which was taken by A. W. Parker of Woburn.



## THE WYMAN FAMILY.

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IT was not known until the year 1889 where the Francis and John Wyman, who were among the first settlers of Woburn, Mass., came from. In the April number of that year the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* published the discovery by Henry F. Waters, A. M., in London, of the record of a will made in the year 1658, by Francis Wyman of the parish of West Mill, County of Herts, England, wherein he mentioned his two sons, Francis and John, as being beyond the seas; and among the other bequests in the will he devises to his son Thomas all of his lands, buildings, etc. (Thomas was his oldest son.)

The John and Francis Wyman therein mentioned are the ones by that name who were among the first settlers of Woburn, and signed the town orders in 1640. A house is still standing, built by Francis about 1666, in a part of the town which was afterwards set

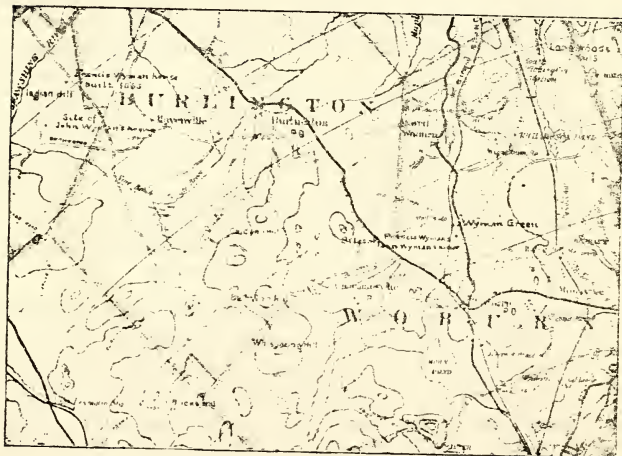


FRANCIS WYMAN'S FARM HOUSE—BURLINGTON.



off as the town of Burlington. The house of John Wyman was near by, but was destroyed many years ago; its site is still shown.

These houses were their country or farm houses, and were near the town limits of Woburn; they were exposed to the attacks of Indians during the war of



MAP OF WOBURN AND BURLINGTON.

King Philip's time, and the house now standing was used as a garrison, and the port-holes for muskets are still to be seen. The house is situated near the fertile meadows of the Shawshin river, and the whole valley is a beautiful tract of country, quiet, peaceful and se-





cluded, where, as a recent visitor expressed it, "It is afternoon all the time." Many visit the place in the summer, and linger beneath the spreading branches of the great elms near the house.

The two brothers also had houses in the town, nearly opposite the small park recently laid out at the junction of Main and Wyman streets, named "Wyman Green." Their tannery was also located near this place, and the vats are said to still exist, buried two or three feet beneath the soil.

In the old burial ground in Woburn is the gravestone of Francis Wyman in good preservation, and contains the following inscriptions, viz.:

"Memento mori," "Fugit Hora."

"Here lyes y<sup>e</sup> body of Francis Wyman, aged about 82 years, died November 28th, 1699 "

"The memory of y<sup>e</sup> iust is blessed."

It is estimated that there are now at least 8,000 persons by the name of Wyman in this country, and it would be impossible to embrace in a moderate sized volume their complete genealogy. The references given below will, however, it is believed, enable many who know the names of their immediate ancestors for, say two or three generations, to complete the line to Francis, or John, as the case may be. T. B. Wyman of Charlestown made a collection of the names in 1849: a copy of which is in the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, and which has been added to in manuscript from time to time by individuals who have been interested in making a record as complete as pos-



sible; thereby bringing down to within a generation or two many of the branches of the descendants of the two brothers. Walter C. Wyman, Union League Club, Chicago, has another copy of his uncle, T. B. Wyman's collection, which he soon intends to publish. Sewall's "History of Woburn" also contains a collection compiled from the Woburn record of births and deaths, and from T. B. Wyman's collection, and from Savage's Genealogical Dictionary. This history also contains much other interesting matter relating to Wymans; among other matters it gives the names of thirty-three persons from Woburn by the name of Wyman who served in the war of the Revolution, and these are not all of the name who served.

"Woburn Historic Sites and Houses," by W. R. Cutter, librarian of the Woburn Public Library, contains much interesting matter relating to the Wymans in colonial times, and to which I am indebted for the matter relating to the description of the location of the Wymans in Woburn and Burlington.

The Woburn record of births, marriages and deaths from 1640 to 1873, compiled by Edward F. Johnson, and published in 1890, is a valuable source of information.

Sewall's "History of Woburn" can be obtained from W. R. Cutter, librarian, at \$1 per copy. The other works mentioned have become very scarce and the prices high.



The line of descent of my own family to the present time, as taken from the above sources, is as follows, viz.:

No. 1,	John, b. 1621, m. 1644, Sarah Nutt,	b. —
No. 12,	Jonathan, b. 1661, m. 1690, Hannah Fowle,	b. 1684
No. 37,	Jonathan, b. 1704, m. —, Martha Thompson,	b. 1706
No. 154,	Jonathan, b. 1734, m. 1759, Abigail Wright,	b. 1741
	Jonathan, b. 1763, m. 1788, Ruby Richardson,	b. 1769
	Abel, b. 1793, m. 1817, Maria Wade,	b. 1797
	Horace, b. 1827, m. 1860, Louise B. Horton,	b. 1837
	Horace Winfield, b. 1861, m. 1889, Mary W. Haskell,	b. 1864
	Horace, 2d, b. 1893.	

The name of Wyman is undoubtedly of Saxon origin, and was, in common with names in earlier times, spelled in different ways, as Wiman, Wymant, Wymond, Wimond and other ways.

The earliest record of the name, as now spelled, is that of the town of Wymondham in Leicestershire, England, "which was called in ancient writings Wymanham and Wymand's Town. There was one Wymand, son of Witlaf, king of the Mercians—and this town being in that province, probably he had it for a part of his maintenance." (Nichol's "History of Leicestershire.")

Cussan's "History of Hertfordshire" says of Great Wymondley "that this manor and that of Little Wymondley were formerly the lea or pasture lands of a Saxon named Wymond, and as a portion of it belonged to the nuns of Chatteris in Cambridgeshire until 1063, it is probable that it was given by Wymond, a son of









rived from the Anglo-Saxon personal name of Wimond, and that Wymondham in Norfolk county derived its name as the home or habitation of Wimond, a Saxon proprietor.

In the Domesday Book, made in 1086, and the Winton Supplement the name is seen in many places, and would appear to have been used from Withlaf's time as giving name to different localities, as

Wimundele, that is, Wimund's field or pasture.

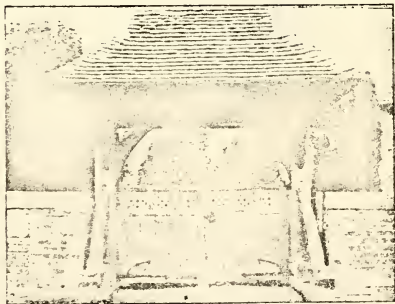
Wimundeswald, that is, Wimund's wood or forest.

Wimundtun, that is, Wimund's town.

Wimundstrev, that is, Wimund's tree, and many others of like character.

It also appears as the name of an individual in Wallington, near West Mill, and in other places, as a tenant of lands.

In historical records of the 12th and 13th centuries, when the use of given and surnames became common it is seen quite frequently as the name of a rector in parishes which



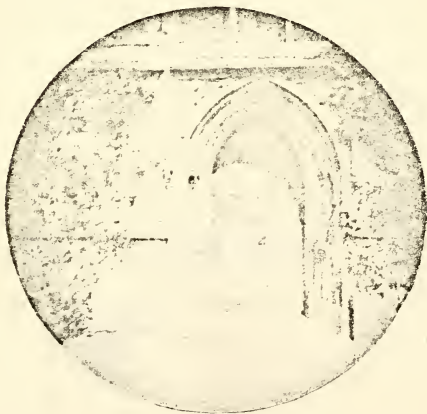
THE LICH GATE.

had been instituted about that time, as Robert de-



Wymondham in the year 1220 in the town of Wymondham; Henry de Wymundele in 1275, in Watton at Stone; Thomas de Wymondeham in 1268, in Caldecote, and John de Wylmundele in 1220 in Little Wymondely. That is Robert of Wymond's home; Henry of Wymund's fields, etc.

"The name first appears in the records of West Mill



THE TOWER DOOR, ST. MARY'S.

with the marriage of Francis Wymant and Elizabeth Richardson, May 2d, 1617; and the baptism of Francis Wymant, Feb. 24th, 1619, and of John Wymant, Feb. 3d, 1621, sons of Francis Wymant, and also of other sons. Their location in West Mill was at Brook End, about one mile from West Mill church, and afterwards



at West Mill Green, one-half mile from Brook End." (Morrill Wyman, Jr., in *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, January, 1896.)

Wymondham in Leicestershire and Wymondham in Norfolk county are about sixty miles apart, and each is about that distance from West Mill, and all of the places above mentioned are between or near those places.



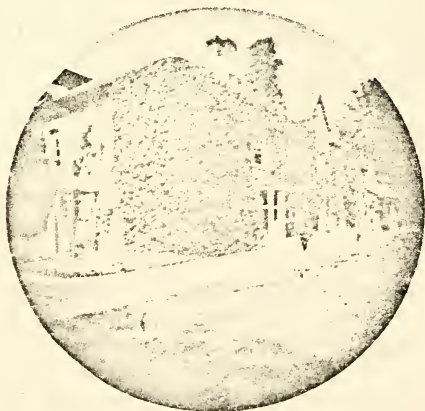
A STREET IN WEST MILL.

Wymondham in Leicestershire was a town of some importance in ancient times, and was surrounded by walls for its protection. A portion of a tessellated pavement was uncovered near the remains of the walls a few years ago, indicating that it was probably the site of a town in the Roman times. It has now but few



inhabitants, chiefly occupied in agricultural pursuits, and is a town of no importance.

Being in London in the summer of 1889, in company of Mr. Leonard Thompson of Woburn and my son, H. Winfield Wyman of Worcester, we made a visit to West Mill, about thirty miles north of London, to learn something more regarding the antecedents of the Wy-



WEST MILL RECTORY.

man family. We found no one by the name then living in West Mill, but obtained the address of a family in an adjacent parish. The West Mill Church (St. Mary's), which we visited, was built in the 13th century. The entrance is from the lich gate, passing through the burial ground, as is common to English parish churches.





The edifice is of the early English architecture, and with its decorated windows, its square embattled tower, its arched doorway decorated with carved figures, and its old oaken door, weather stained, and swung upon curiously wrought hinges, made a most interesting study, associated as it was with the early lives of Francis and John



STONEBURY.

Wyman. An inner room contained the records of the parish, but we were unable to obtain access to them, owing to the absence of the rector. A description of the church in the "History of Hertfordshire" says of the tower door that "the two angels, under the head of the arch on the soffit, bear between them a heart pierced by three passion nails, the badge of the Society of Jesus." In the view here shown of the tower door they can be seen, rather faintly, in the dark part on the moulding (or soffit) exactly central on the arch.

An account of this visit was published in the October number of the *American Amateur Photographer* for 1889.

Having occasion to visit England during the summer of 1894 in company with my daughters, M. Louise and Adelaide R. Wyman, we took the opportunity



when in London to make further investigations about West Mill and vicinity. The route from London passes stations with the familiar English names of



MUTFORDS.

Bishopsgate, Bethnal Green, Hackney Down, and, passing other stations, that of Edmonton, where from the balcony of the Bell John Gilpin's wife spied her husband on horseback dashing past without hat or wig, as narrated by Wil-

liam Cowper in "The Diverting History of John Gilpin." Continuing, we leave the town of Ware to the left (celebrated, chiefly—in guide books—for its possession of a bed twelve feet wide) and soon arrive at Buntingford, the post town for West Mill, Great and Little Hormead, and some other parishes in that vicinity, and the end of a branch line of the Great Eastern railway, where we took rooms at the George & Dragon. This inn is of a type common in England in earlier times, but which is now rarely seen except in districts which are away from the principal lines of travel. The buildings surround a court-yard having an arched entrance from the front, the kitchen and commercial rooms being on one side of the court, and the sitting rooms and tap rooms on the other, with the entrance under the



archway at either side, the stable being at the lower end of the court-yard. The landlord, Mr. James J. Shain, was unremitting in his attention to our comfort, and of great assistance in our investigations.

After getting settled at the inn, we took a carriage and visited Hormead Hall, the residence of Mrs. W. W. Wyman, about three miles from Buntingford, and after-



LITTLE HORMEAD CHURCH.

wards Mutford and Stonebury and Little Hormead Bury.

Each of these estates contains over 600 acres of tillage land, with mansions, barns and other buildings, covering two or three acres in each place.

Mutford is the residence of John Wyman, brother-in-law of Mrs. Wyman of Hormead Hall, and Stonebury was formerly the residence of Francis Wyman, who was born in 1731, and lived there until his death in 1794. He was succeeded by his son, Francis, who lived there during his lifetime. It is not occupied by any one of the name at the present time.

Little Hormead Bury was the residence of Richard Wyman, who purchased it in 1806. He was the son of Francis Wyman of Stonebury, and lived at Mutford before purchasing Little Hormead Bury. His son,



Francis, was born at Mutford and lived there during his lifetime, and his son, John, is now living there. Another son, Walter Wescott, was the husband of Mrs. Wyman of Hormead Hall; he died in 1887.

Both Stonebury and Mutford are in the parish of Little Hormead, Mutford being about one mile from Stonebury, and Little Hormead Bury about one mile from Mutford.

The mansions of both Stonebury and Mutford are about half a mile from the traveled road, with private roads leading to the houses through the cultivated fields, Mutford being nearer the church of Little Hormead.

The main traveled road from London, running north-through this part of the country, is here divided, one to Huntington passing through West Mill and Buntingford, and the other to Cambridge passing between



LITTLE HORMEAD BURY.

Stonebury and Mutford. The country is intersected by numerous smaller cross-roads leading to the villages and mansions scattered through the country.

The mansion of Little Hormead Bury is just opposite the church, and is, with the church, situated upon





rising ground and overlooks a considerable extent of country, Mutford being seen to the left, while Stonebury is in the extreme distance, more nearly in front.

Hormead Hall in Great Hormead, about one mile distant from Stonebury and the same distance from Mutford, is a very interesting place. The mansion was formerly entirely surrounded by a moat, with a drawbridge for access to



HORMEAD HALL—EAST VIEW.

the place. About sixty years ago the portion of the moat by the drawbridge was filled up, but about two-thirds of the moat with the water still remains. Advantage has been taken of this moat to form a picturesque sheet of water for the grounds, it being about fifty feet distant from the buildings in front, with the lawn sloping to the water's edge, while on the outer side the grounds are extended to form flower beds, shrubbery, etc., with a rustic bridge connecting the two sides.

The moat at one side and the rear of the buildings remain unchanged, and the moat is bordered on both sides to the water's edge with forest trees and vines.

At Hormead Hall we were cordially received and



entertained by Mrs. Wyman and her interesting family of six daughters and one son, named Francis. The house was probably built in the 16th century, and is a good specimen of the hall or mansion house of that period: the chimney shafts clustered together and ornamented, the bay windows and porches, are all features in mansion houses which were first introduced in the 16th century—the Tudor period.

A portion of the walls is covered with jasmine, fragrant at our visit with a profusion of small white blossoms: a large bay tree, with its dark glossy leaves, shades the house at one side (considered as a protection against lightning), and shrubbery and flower beds ornament different parts of the grounds.



HORMEAD HALL—WEST VIEW.

I used my camera here, taking views of the mansion and grounds, and also secured a view of Mrs. Wyman and four of her daughters with my own in a group. The view shows Mrs. Wyman seated and her daughters, the

figures to the right, with my two daughters—one each side of Mrs. Wyman.

Of the views taken of the house, the front view shows the lawn and the edge of the moat—the view



being taken from the opposite side of the moat—the house facing to the south. The east end view is also taken from beyond the moat through the shrubbery. The west view was taken from the direction of the barns.

Great and Little Hormead and West Mill are mentioned in the Domesday Book of England, made by William the Conqueror in 1086, as manors, and they were later instituted into parishes. The two churches of Great and Little Hormead are about one-quarter of a mile apart, and the two parishes are now united and occupy the church at Great Hormead, the rector being the Rev. J. Smith.



HORMEAD HALL—SOUTH VIEW.

The church at Great Hormead is surrounded with large shade trees, and makes a very pleasing view from the roadway. The churchyard contains the remains of Walter Wescott Wyman of Hormead Hall, and members of his family.

The church at Little Hormead is a comparatively small structure, the parish consisting of but few families, and is situated on elevated ground without shade trees near, to relieve the barrenness of the situation. The churchyard contains the remains of Richard Wy-



man of Little Hornead Bury, and members of his family. The stones are to the left of the church, as seen in the view.

The parish of Braughing (pronounced brawf-ing) adjoins Little Hornead, and its church is about two miles from Stonebury. In its churchyard are the remains of Francis Wyman of Stonebury, and members of his family. The stones are seen near the church.



HORMEAD HALL—THE GROUP.

The early records of Great and Little Hornead have been badly mutilated, and many pages lost, and what remains contains no mention of the Wyman family in those times. The earliest record yet obtained of any direct ancestor of families now living in Great and Little Hornead is that of Francis Wyman, who was born in 1731; lived in Stonebury, and is buried in the Braughing churchyard.





During a visit made in 1896 to West Mill we were enabled to photograph some pages of the register containing the record of the marriage of Francis Wyman and Elizabeth Richardson, and also of the baptism of their sons, Francis and John, and others of the family, and of the burial of Elizabeth, wife of Francis, and William, a son. This register was commenced in 1562, and consists of a few leaves of parchment fastened together, with some pages of entries upside down. Before the discovery in 1895 of the name of Francis Wyman in this register, it was considered of little value, and it was by mere chance that the few leaves were not destroyed.

This register contains the names of Thomas and Samuel Richardson, besides that of Elizabeth Richardson, who was married to Francis Wyman. As these two names are the same as were two among the first settlers of Woburn, it may be that the Richardsons also came from West Mill, and at the same time as the Wyman's.



BRAUGHING CHURCH.

At Brook End, which we visited at this time, there are two houses standing, and the site shown of others,



now destroyed; one of the latter being probably that of the home of Francis Wyman. The two houses were the only buildings to be seen in that locality. The



BROOK END.

country is slightly undulating, with some elevation in the distance; hedges and trees surround the broad fields, covered with growing crops ready for the harvest, and the whole character of the country is undoubtedly now as

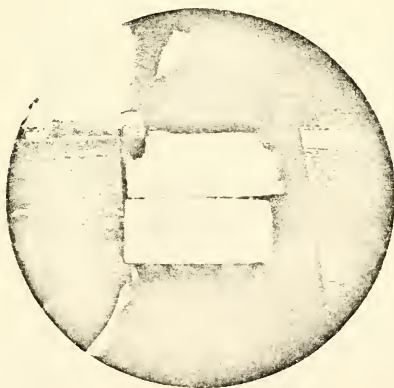
it was in Francis Wyman's time. As it appeared to us that day, it was as quiet, peaceful and secluded as is the Francis Wyman place in Burlington.

The compilers of many family histories take pleasure in showing the Arms borne by English ancestors of the family. Mr. Morrill Wyman, Jr., has kindly furnished one of the Wyman family, copied from one in his possession, which is here reproduced.

The crest—a cock on a sheaf of wheat crosswise—is described in Washbourn's "Family Crests" as that of the Wymans. The three fire balls and the motto, "*Audax et vigilans*," would seem to indicate that the arms were granted for a deed of valor performed during some of the wars of England.



The laws of England are strict relating to the use of heraldic arms. A yearly tax is imposed upon those who bear them, and penalties if used without permission. The whole matter is vested in a College of Arms, which has complete authority as to the granting and arranging the parts composing the device, which usually represents something significant of the event



PHOTOGRAPHING THE REGISTER.

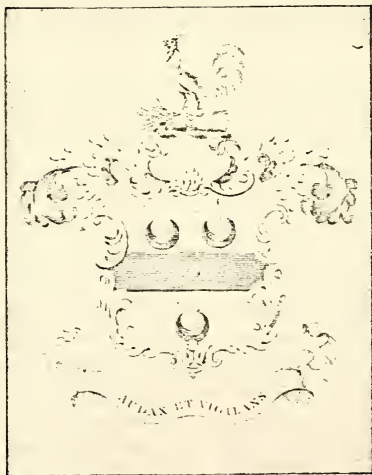
for which the arms were granted. About the latter part of the 14th century, heraldic arms began to be considered as a hereditary possession, and were transmitted to one's descendants in the usual way of other possessions.

Cussan's "Handbook of Heraldry" says, "It is not lawful for several persons to bear one and the same



arms without a Difference, not even to those of the same family, though they be Brothers:" the "Difference" being an addition made to the original device, which indicates whether the bearer be a first, or second son, etc., or of other relationship.

The arms are of assistance in tracing the pedigree of



ARMS OF THE WYMAN FAMILY.

a family before the commencement of the Parochial registration of baptisms, marriages and deaths—about the middle of the 16th century to the latter part of the 14th century—the commencement of the use of arms as a heraldic possession. Cussan says, "Except in rare





instances it is utterly impossible to trace a pedigree beyond the time of Richard the Second, and those persons who assert that their ancestors 'came over with the Conqueror' derive their authority chiefly, if not wholly, from tradition or their own imagination."

What branches of the Wyman family have the right of bearing the accompanying arms, the author has not been informed, but has inserted the device as a matter of interest.

As the name is of Saxon derivation, it may not be amiss to quote the following account by an English author of the part the Saxon took in the making of England. He says: "In the forests of lower Germany a hardy tribe there dwelt whose prowess was acknowledged far and wide, and whose barks rode triumphantly over the stormy seas of the north, by the rude waves of which many a mightier navy had been dashed to atoms. This fair-haired, blue-eyed race were a part of that old Teutonic stock which constituted one of the great waves of civilization which rolled over Europe from the east. These people, the denizens of old German forests, were destined to altogether change the face of affairs in Great Britain. Hospitable, brave, inured to labor, and of a free and open disposition, they infused their spirit into the people whom they came to assist, till at last the Saxon element became identical with that of the English.

"The Saxons also were a people with a high chivalrous sense of honor; they held the fair sex in veneration, and advocated 'woman's rights' after a manner



never before known; and thus the characteristics for which the Anglo-Saxons have become famous in all parts of the world were early engrafted on the rude British mind.

“From the time of Alfred the Great, the Saxon people in Britain have been rapid in their march of civilization. Many pages of history are filled with their triumphs. They have penetrated the vast forests of America, and peopled with constantly increasing millions the western hemisphere. Their colonies are boundless regions, the seats of incipient empires of gigantic strength, where ten times the population of Britain may subsist in contentment and affluence.”

About 100 years before the reign of Withlaf, in the beginning of the century, Roman missionaries landed in England to introduce Christianity. Edwin, the great Northumbrian king, influenced by his wife and the Chaplain Paulinus, called upon his people to embrace Christianity. His wise men were ready for the change. “So runs the life of man,” said one, “as a sparrow’s flight through the hall, when a man is sitting at meat in winter-tide, with the warm fire lighted on the hearth, but the chill rain-storm without. The sparrow flies in at one door, and tarries for a moment in the light and heat of the hearth-fire, and then flying forth from the other vanishes into the wintry darkness from whence it came. So tarries for a moment the life of man in our sight, but what is before it, what after it, we know not. If this new teaching tell us aught certainly of these, let us follow it.”



During the century that followed the landing of the missionaries, the several kingdoms embraced Christianity, bishoprics and parishes were formed, and monasteries, abbeys and churches were built, from which the learning and intellectual life of the nation were diffused.



















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